

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CU-04 HEW-08 NIC-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 IO-12 RSR-01 /135 W
----- 041296

R 281020 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3216

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 1541

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: ZSP ENDS WITH A WHIMPER

1. SUMMARY: THE ASSOCIATION OF POLISH STUDENTS (ZSP) VOTED ITSELF OUT OF EXISTENCE MARCH 26, VICTIM OF A WELL-ENGINEERED REGIME JUGGERNAUT. END SUMMARY

2. THE EIGHT CONGRESS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF POLISH STUDENTS (ZSP), ORIGINALLY BILLED AS A THREE- DAY AFFAIR, BEGAN AND ENDED BEFORE NOON MARCH 26. AFTER A SHORT DISCUSSION, DURING WHICH THE DELEGATES TOOK COGNIZANCE OF AN " OVERWHELMING MAJORITY" WITHIN THE ZSP FAVORING THE REGIME- BACKED CREATION OF A SINGLE, IDEOLOGICAL- POLITICAL STUDENT GROUP, THE ZSP LEADERSHIP RETIRED AND THE CONGRESS CAME TO AN END. IN THE AFTER- NOON HOURS MARCH 26, THE ZSP DELEGATES WERE JOINED BY DELEGATES REPRESENTING THE SUTDENT CADRE OF THE UNION OF
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SOCIALIST YOUTH (ZMS) AND THE SOCIALIST RURAL YOUTH UNION (SZMW), THUS BEGINNING THE SO- CALLED CONGRESS OF POLISH STUDENTS WHOSE TASK IT WILL BE TO CREATE THE NEW UNIFIED STUDENT ORGANIZATION, TO BE CALLED THE SOCIALIST ASSOCIATION OF POLISH STUDENTS (SZSP). THE STUDENT CONGRESS WILL END MARCH 28.

3. PRESS REPORTS OF THE ZSP CONGRESS DEBATE REVEALED SOME CRITICISM OF THE UNIFICATION PLAN. ACCORDING TO TRYBUNA LUDU, " DOUBTS" WERE EXPRESSED FROM THE FLOOR THAT THE NEW UNIFIED STUDENT GROUP WOULD SHOW SUFFICIENT CONCERN FOR THE STUDENTS' " DAILY PROBLEMS". SUCH DOUBTS, HOWEVER, HAD LITTLE APPARENT EFFECT ON THE DELEGATES, WHO ACCEPTED A RESOLUTION FAVORING THE UNIFICATION PLAN WITHOUT RESERVATION.

4. COMMENT: THE FATE OF THE ZSP WAS SEALED IN JANUARY, WHEN, AFTER A MEETING WITH YOUTH GROUP LEADERS, GIEREK GAVE HIS PUBLIC SUPPORT TO THE STUDENT ORGANIZATION UNIFICATION PLAN. ALTHOUGH WE CONTINUED TO HEAR REPORTS OF STUDENTS' DISCONTENT WITH THE ABOLITION OF THE SERVICE-ORIENTED ZSP, THE SKIDS WERE EFFECTIVELY GREASED. THE CARE WITH WHICH THE REGIME PLANNED THE UNIFICATION CAMPAIGN WAS EVIDENT AT THE ZSP CONGRESS, WHICH WAS OVER ALMOST BEFORE IT HAD BEGUN, HAVING FAITHFULLY ENDORSED THE REGIME PROPOSAL. (ONE UNCONFIRMED REPORT HAS IT THAT SOME DELEGATES WERE UNAWARE WHEN THE CONGRESS BEGAN THAT IT WOULD NOT LAST THE ORIGINALLY ANNOUNCED THREE DAYS).

5. WHETHER THE ZSP WILL BE LONG MOURNED DEPENDS ON THE CHARACTER OF THE NEW UNIFIED STUDENT GROUP. THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE THAT THE REGIME-- PERHAPS IN RESPONSE TO STUDENT OPPOSITION-- HAS MOVED AWAY SOMEWHAT FROM ITS INITIAL EMPHASIS ON THE IDEOLOGICAL NATURE OF THE NEW ORGANIZATION AND HAS BEGUN ASSURING ALL WHO WILL LISTEN THAT THE NEW GROUP, ALBEIT ASSIDUOUSLY FULFILLING ITS IDEOLOGICAL DUTIES, WILL BE ESSENTIALLY A LARGER, BETTER FUNDED AND MORE POWERFUL ZSP, GIVING THE STUDENTS FOR THE FIRST TIME AN EFFECTIVE VOICE IN UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION. THIS LINE WAS ECHOED IN THE STUDENT CONGRESS KEYNOTE SPEECH BY EX- ZSP HEAD CIOSEK, WHO SAID THE NEW GROUP WOULD STRIVE TO ESTABLISH A " PARTNERSHIP" BETWEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STUDENTS AND ADMINISTRATION.

6. AN EMBASSY OFFICER, WHO ATTENDED THE ZSP GAL AFTER THE CONGRESS ENDED MARCH 26 AND LATER SPOKE WITH SOME DELEGATES AT A SMALLER GATHERING, FOUND A PREVAILING MOOD OF RESIGNATION, WITH SOME SUPPORT EXPRESSED FOR THE NEW GROUP AND NO EVIDENCE OF ORGANIZED OPPOSITION. WE WOULD EXPECT THE REGIME TO PLAY ON THIS MOOD BY PUTTING THE BEST POSSIBLE FACE ON THE NEW ORGANIZATION, AT LEAST IN THE INITIAL PERIOD, WHILE HOPING TO CALM STUDENT FEARS OF INCREASED INDOCTRINATION AND REGIMENTATION.
BOSTER

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